

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Castor, Van Hollen, Schwartz, Doggett, McCollum,  
Yarmuth, Pascrell, Ryan (OH), and Bonamici

**Protecting Help with Prescription Drug Costs and Other Valuable  
Medicare Benefits for Seniors**

This amendment expresses the Sense of the House on the need to retain the important new health benefits for seniors and disabled individuals provided in the Affordable Care Act – benefits that will be eliminated as a result of the Republican budget resolution's repeal of most provisions of the Act. The Affordable Care Act provides 50 percent discounts on brand-name drugs this year for Medicare beneficiaries in the Medicare Part D 'donut hole' coverage gap. The law completely closes the 'donut hole' by 2020. About 3.6 million seniors with high drug costs saved an average of \$604 in 2011, thanks to the Act. Affected seniors will save nearly \$2,400 in 2021. An estimated 32.5 million seniors and disabled individuals received one or more free preventive services through Medicare in 2011, such as mammograms and colon cancer screenings. Repeal of the Affordable Care Act will increase costs to seniors for these important services.

A **YES** vote supports the important new benefits for seniors and disabled individuals provided in the Affordable Care Act, including prescription drug cost relief.

A **NO** vote supports repeal of the Affordable Care Act, risking seniors' health coverage and forcing seniors with high drug costs back in the donut hole where they must pay all their prescription costs.

1. At the end of Title VI, add the following new section:

“Sense of the House on Protecting Help with Prescription Drugs Costs and Other  
Valuable Medicare Benefits for Seniors

(a) The House finds that---

- (1) the Affordable Care Act provides many important new benefits and protections for seniors, including: help with prescription drug costs, coverage of key preventive services and annual wellness visits with no co-pays or deductibles, better coordinated care for chronic diseases, expanded support for alternatives to nursing homes, and protections against abuse for nursing home residents;
- (2) the Affordable Care Act will reduce out-of-pocket costs for the average senior citizen by more than \$700 annually by 2021, and it will reduce average out-of-pocket costs for seniors who would otherwise fall into the Medicare

- prescription drug benefit's coverage gap, or "donut hole," by \$2,400 by 2021 by gradually closing the coverage gap; and
- (3) repeal of the Affordable Care Act would take away these important benefits and increase out-of-pocket costs for seniors by hundreds or thousands of dollars.

(b) It is the sense of that House that the important benefits for seniors provided by the Affordable Care Act, including the gradual closing of the prescription drug coverage gap, coverage of key preventive services and annual wellness visits with no co-pays or deductibles, better coordinated care for chronic diseases, expanded support for alternatives to nursing homes, and protections against abuse for nursing home residents should not be repealed."

2. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

The resolution rejects repeal of important benefits for seniors provided by the Affordable Care Act, including the gradual closing of the prescription drug coverage gap, coverage of key preventive services and annual wellness visits with no co-pays or deductibles, better coordinated care for chronic diseases, expanded support for alternatives to nursing homes, and protections against abuse for nursing home residents.